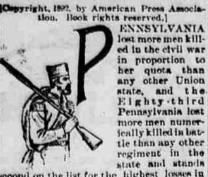
Desperate Deeds at Gaines' Mill and Malvern Hill on the Peninsula-Defense of Little Bound Top-In Advance

at the Wilderness and Spottsylvania.



state and stands ad on the list for the highest losses in killed among Union regiments. This record was made by hard, persistent fighting, and the ranks were filled at the outset and afterward recruited from the men of the runal counties in the northwest of the of on the start was good leadership. Its onel, John W. Melane, was a soldier by oure, who had commanded militia troops many years, and had served as an offi-in the Mexican war. He drilled a tial spirit into his men.

The Eighty third was organized in the lab of 1861, drilled in the camps on the latomac in the winter of 1861-2 and recover its "baptism of fire" in front of the amond in May, 1862. The first hard firsting encountered was at Gaines' Mill, a 27, 1802. This was one of the bloodiex. outtles of the war on the Confederate I non side. The Eighty third was placed in a not corner, and their brigade general sent word to its commander to hold it.

sent word to its commander to hold it."
"He needn't have sent me any such word,"
repled Col. McLane. "I intend to hold it."
"he enemy took it, finally, after walking
a. r McLane's body; but the Pennsylvahouse held on until the same brigadier had
r ded them a second time. The position
by the extreme left of the Union army,
were it rested on the Chickahominy river.
The Confederate attack was made at that The Confederate attack was made at that point by a fresh corps led by Longstreet. The Union center and right were at the time engaged in a fierce battle with Gens. P. Hill and Stonewall Jackson, and Langstreet's aim was to push his troops through the Union left and sweep down arong the river bank to secure the bridges and cut off all chances of retreat.

The Eighty third lay in the front line beread breastworks of logs hastily built for the Occasion. Three times the charges of the Confederates were repulsed by the comsaued efforts of the infantry and artillery, and then it was discovered on the line of the highty third that the line had been cut in two on its right, the enemy was advancing from that direction and its position was cut off from the rest of the army. This made a crisis to try the mettle of officers and men. They had fought from behind breastworks to repulse the attacks on the front, but in warding off the new danger would be compelled to come out from cover. True, there were woods at hand to lend a partial screen, but these woods screened the Confederates as well, who advanced Indian fashion, leaping from tree to tree and firing as they advanced. So long as the Pennsylremians had had breastwork shelter the ef-fect of the enemy's bullets had been but alight, but under the new order of things the ranks thinned out rapidly.
Col. McLane was killed instantly by a

minie ball, and about the same time the second in command, Maj. Naghel, was silled by a shell. Men fell on all sides and the prostrate wounded tried valiantly to nandle their muskets and keep up the fight on the ground. In the end the Confederates caye way and the Eighty-third, led by a tion. The enemy had passed along on their right, squarely to the rear, and the commander of the regiment prepared to meet amonstrught from that direction. He faced The Eighty-third entered the Wilderness as men to the east and gained an open field directly in rear of the breastworks previously occupied. The first line, that at the breastworks, had faced west, the at in the woods, north, and the third in some regiments were seen advancing to-ward the Eighty-third in the direction where Union troops had been at the open-ing of the fight. Thinking that they might is supports coming to their relief, the Eighty-third allowed them to approach.

After a parley the troops proved to be enemies, and the ball again opened. After some sharp firing the captain leading the regiment ordered a retreat to the old



COL. J. W. M'LANE. [Killed at Gaines' Mill.]

stworks in the rear. There at last, squarely about-faced, they crouched be-laied the log barricade to defend it from reverse side. Two other regiments had held on in the works during the whole the, the Forty fourth New York and the Stateenth Michigan, and, seeing the Con-lederates swarming on three sides, the surviving officers, upon consultation, decided to let the men retreat by scattering. Should they attempt to move off in column bey would be attacked by overwhelming tembers, but in squads and detachments he confusion of the fled and the veil of twilight then gathering would enable greater part to reach the Union lines. The Eighty-third lost 46 killed, 51 wounded of missing. The missing included hilled and many wounded.

The regiment had a respite from fighting three days. On the fourth day, after laines' Mill, on July 1, it was again called aid they attempt to move off in column

When the Eighty third reached the scene of danger a Union battery that had de-

fended its position with great gallantry for some time was moving away. The Pennsylvanians opened on the advancing enemy and coolly stood their ground under a fire that thinned the ranks rapidly. The enemy wavered and the battery returned to its position and once more opened fire Gooded on by the repulse that followed, the Confederates renewed the charge, and the conflict became bloody in the extrema.

The Pennsylvanians fired so rapidly that their guns became overheated, and the surviving soldiers took other ones from the hands of their dead comrules, of whom names of their dead comrates, of whom there were plenty. The loss of the Eighty-third was 38 killed outright, 115 wounded and 18 missing. This number, with the loss at Gaines' Mill, made a total in four days of 382 out of 554 that entered the fight. The killed and those who died of wounds was III, or one man in every five. The next battle of the Eighty-third was at Second Bull Run, Aug. 31, 1833. It then numbered 221 men, and was led by Lieut. Col. H. S. Campbell. In Morell's division, of Fitz John Porter's corps, it took part is the charge upon Stonewall Jackson's position at the famous railway cut. The advance was made at double quick across as open field, swept by canister and bullets. Lieut. Col. Campbell, the major and I cap-tain were wounded, 2 lieutenants killed and a death list of 26 rolled up in a brief struggle. The total in killed and wounded was 97. Campbell had been wounded at the head of the regiment at Malvern Hill,

the head of the regiment at Maivern 1111, and so its commanding officer had been shot down for the fourth time.

At Antietam the Eighty-third escaped loss; at Fredericksburg it charged up to the stone wall to the relief of the storming that cost a start of the storming a care desire, more ment that cost the stone wall to the relief of the storming column, a very daring movement that cost but few men, however. Chancellorsville was another lucky field for the Eighty-third, but at Gettysburg it found a place of honor at Little Round Top, on July 2.

Col. Strong Vincent, who had succeeded McLane in the colonelcy, led the brigade of which his regiment formed part, and aswhich his regiment formed part, and assumed the responsibility of taking it upon Round Top when that position was about to fall into the hands of the Confederates.

The Eighty-third was posted in the vale between Round Top and Little Round Top. a pass selected by the Confederate Gen. Hood to reach the coveted hill. In that vale took place some of the deadlest fighting of the field. Col. Vincent stood upon a lofty rock to encourage his troops, and so determined were his men to imitate his valor that noncombatants seized muskets from the fallen and entered the ranks. The color bearer placed the flagstaff in the crevice of a bowlder and plied his rifle val-orously. Death was reaping a harrest all around, and the Confederates, regardless of the enormous slaughter in their front ranks, swarmed on the mountain sides.



ON POCKY ROUND TOP.

Capt. Hazlett, whose battery was aiding Vincent's men, was killed at his guns, and Col. O'Rourke, of the One Hundred and Fortieth New York, was shot down as he led his regiment to their support. Col. Vincent soon fell with a mortal wound, but the light went on until Hood's charge was

effectually repulsed.

The loss of the regiment was 46, the

campaign in the spring of 1864, in Bartlett's brigade, Griffin's division, Warren's (Fifth) have recommended it to many of such as are corps. Bartlett opened the battle at the Wilderness on May 5, and the regiment lost 20 killed and wounded on that field. At Spottsylvania Bartlett again opened the fight. Warren's corps led the march in the attempt to seize the court house. The generals expected to encounter nothing more than Stuart's cavalry outposts, but the Eighty third attempted to brush away the opposition met at Laurel Hill it found a line of Confederate works, manned with infantry, blocking the road. A galling musketry fire sainted the advance, but the Pennsylvanians fixed bayonets on the march and dashed upon the barricule. Many men crossed over and plied the bayonet, even taking some prisoners and send-

ing them back to the rear.

Every man that entered the works was wounded and some of the number severely. The regiment meanwhile hold its line with in a few paces of the barricade and poured in a fusilade until its ranks were fearfully depleted. The color hearer was wounded at the beginning of the charge and the col-ors left his hauds. He subsequently re-vived, seized the flag again and planted it on the breastworks, but receiving another wound in the breast, burled the banner back to the rear, where it was secured by other hands. Lacking support, the regi-ment finally retreated after losing 164 killed, wounded and missing. The death list in the end reached 57. Spottsylvania was the sixth and last great battle of the regiment. In these six—Gaines' Mill, Malvern Hill, Second Bull Run, Gettysburg, Wildersen ness and Spottsylvania—the death list on the field amounted to 232, and the record shows how great the loss of life may be in negative fighting. The regiment had stormed no batteries and carried no key positions-simply stood its ground valiantly

while there was hope sometimes vainly, and again with success. During the remainder of the campaign to Petersburg the loss was slight. At Peeto Petersburg the loss was slight. At Pee-bles' Farm, Petersburg, on Sept. 30, 1894, the regiment, reduced to a battalion, charged upon a Confederate redoubt, planted its banner first upon the parapet and learned after long years of bloody work how sweet is the taste of victory. Its loss in that affair was 10 killed. The membership of the regiment first and last was 1,808. Of this number 971 were killed or wounded. The total deaths in battle was 282; the deaths by disease, etc., amounted to 153. Of the wounded 897 were perma-nently disabled, and hence the waste in The regiment had a respite from fighting nently disabled, and hence the waste in and the state of the fourth day, after aggregate amounted to \$32, or 40 per cent. The state of the hardy young country boys who went of the first out in the bloom of health to battle for on their country. To this should be added the permanently disabled by disease and hardship, and it would be interesting to the state of the field nearly made it know what proportion of the men who stuck to the colors escaped either wound, all death str:ke or permanent disease.
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